

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4896

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MSOCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 7090

DISTO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM TECH IAEA KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN RATIFICATION OF NPT

REF: A) SEOUL 4957 (NOTAL); B) IAEA VIENNA 5288 (NOTAL)

1. REPORT REF A THAT ROKG (OR AT LEAST CERTAIN ELEMENTS THEREIN) APPARENTLY WOULD PREFER TO KEEP OPEN ITS OPTION TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS MOST REVEALING REPORT WE HAVE YET SEEN OF REAL REASONS FOR KOREAN FAILURE RATIFY NPT, AND IS INDICATIVE OF GROWING URGENCY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH OVERALL POTENTIAL NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION PROBLEM. IT COMPLEMENTS OUR RECENT REPORTING WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINE REFUSAL TO ACCEPT ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT.

2. ROK IS MOVING INTO NUCLEAR POWER UTILIZATION IN BEG
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WAY, AND ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM HAS BEEN FURTHER ACCELERATED BY INCREASED OIL PRICES. ROK HAS TWO-UNIT WESTINGHOUSE

NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION, HAS SIGNED LETTERS OF INTENT WITH AECL OF CANADA FOR TWO CANDU 600 MW UNITS, AND IS REPORTEDLY DICKERING WITH GULF GENERAL ATOMICS FOR THREE HTGR 800 MW UNITS (WHICH USE HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL).

3. MOREOVER, IAEA RECENTLY COMPLETED DRAFT REPORT UPDATING ITS NUCLEAR POWER MARKET SURVEY SHOWS THAT IT WOULD BE ECONOMICAL FOR ROK TO BEGIN INSTALLING ONE ADDITIONAL 600 MW NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EACH YEAR FROM 1981 THROUGH 1985, SHIFTING TO ONE EACH OF 800 MW PLANTS IN 1986 AND 1987, A 1,000 MW PLANT IN 1988, TWO 1,000 MW PLANTS IN 1989 AND ANOTHER 1,000 MW IN 1990, FOR AND ADDED TOTAL OF 8,600 MW DURING 1980'S. TOTAL NUCLEAR POWER IN ROK IN 1980 IS PROJECTED TO BE ABOUT 1,200 MW AND COULD RISE TO 18,900 MW BY 2000.

4. MISSION IS AWARE THAT, DURING PAST YEAR, KOREANS HAVE MADE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE WITH VIEW TO CONSIDERING CONSTRUCTION OF PLANT IN KOREA. KOREANS HAVE ALSO HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH JAPANESE, WHO REPORTEDLY WERE INTERESTED, BECAUSE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE DIFFICULTIES FORESEEN RE CONSTRUCTION ANY ADDITIONAL REPROCESSING PLANTS IN JAPAN.

5. THUS, POTENTIAL FOR ACQUISITION BY KOREA OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF PLUTONIUM IS SIGNIFICANT, AND WE BELIEVE AS RESULT THAT QUESTION OF ROK RATIFICATION OF NPT WARRANTS VERY HIGH PRIORITY ATTENTION.

6. WE UNDERSTAND CANADIANS HAVE RECENTLY COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS OF NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR FIELD WITH ROK, WHICH, INTER ALIA, MAKES CLEAR THAT PLUTONIUM PRODUCED IN CANADIAN-SUPPLIED REACTORS IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. THIS IS A WELCOME STEP, BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, WE NOTE THAT US HAS NO SIMILAR BILATERAL UNDERSTANDING WITH ROK IN CONNECTION WITH US/ROK BILATERAL AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH US HAS CLEARLY STATED ITS VIEWS ON PROHIBITION INHERENT IN ALL US BILATERALS AT IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS TWICE IN LAST TWO YEARS (MOST RECENTLY ON JUNE 12).

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7. WE ASSUME THAT INTERNAL USG REVIEW ON PROLIFERATION PROBLEM UNDERWAY WILL ADDRESS PROBLEM OF ROK-TYPE FENCE STRADDLERS, AND THAT THE "ACTIVE DIPLOMACY" RELATED TO PROLIFERATION PROBLEM, WHICH THE SECRETARY STATED IN HIS JULY 24 SENATE TESTIMONY WOULD GET UNDERWAY THIS FALL, WILL INCLUDE HIGH-LEVEL AND SERIOUS APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES IN THIS CATEGORY.

8. IF ROK DECIDES TO CONTINUE SITTING ON FENCE, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO US THAT USG SHOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW SITUATION AND, AS A MINIMUM, USG SHOULD ATTEMPT RE-NEGOTIATE US/ROK

ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION TO INCLUDE ALL THE
"EXTRAS" THAT WILL BE IN OUR AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT.
DEPT MIGHT ALSO WISH, IN SUCH EVENT, CONSULT CLOSELY WITH CANADA,
FRG AND OTHER POWER REACTOR SUPPLIERS IN EFFORT TO HAVE COMMON
POLICY ON SPECIAL TERMS FOR CASES LIKE ROK. PORTER

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